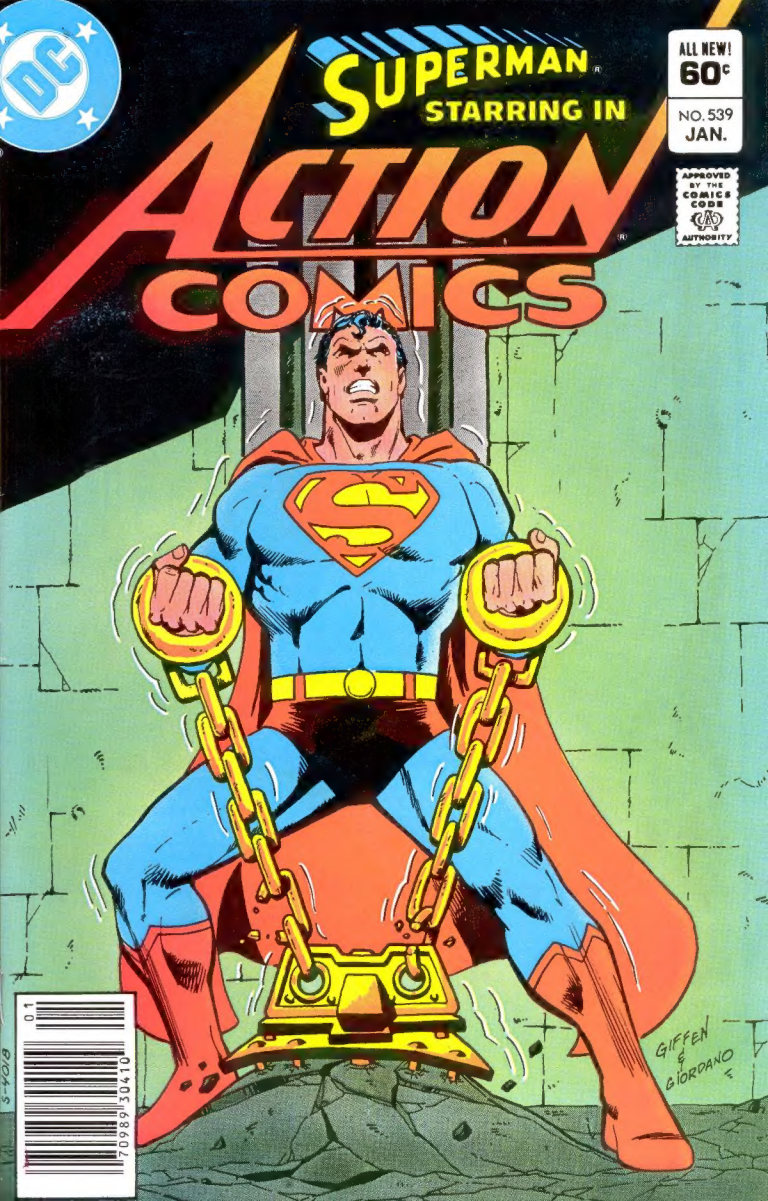
SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
ACTION
COMICS
ALL NEW!
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ROCKETED AS A BABY FROM THE EXPLODING PLANET KRYPTON, KAL-EL GREW TO MANHOOD ON EARTH--WHOSE YELLOW SUN AND LIGHTER GRAVITY GAVE HIM FANTASTIC SUPER-POWERS! IN THE CITY OF METROPOLIS, HE POSES AS MILD-MANNERED NEWSMAN CLARK KENT--BUT BATTLES EVIL ALL OVER EARTH--AND BEYOND--AS...
SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
MARV WOLFMAN WRITER / GIL KANE ARTIST / BEN ODA - GENE D'ANGELO - LETTERER / COLORIST / JULIUS SCHWARTZ EDITOR
SOMEWHEN...
N-NO USE, SUPERMAN. WE CAN'T PUSH THROUGH THIS BLASTED TIME STORM!
NEVER FELT ANYTHING THIS BAD BEFORE.
RAO, IT HURTS, ATOM. FEELS LIKE I'M BEING PULLED IN TWELVE DIRECTIONS AT ONCE!
DON'T THINK I CAN TAKE IT MUCH LONGER.
LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
PAST IMPERFECT!

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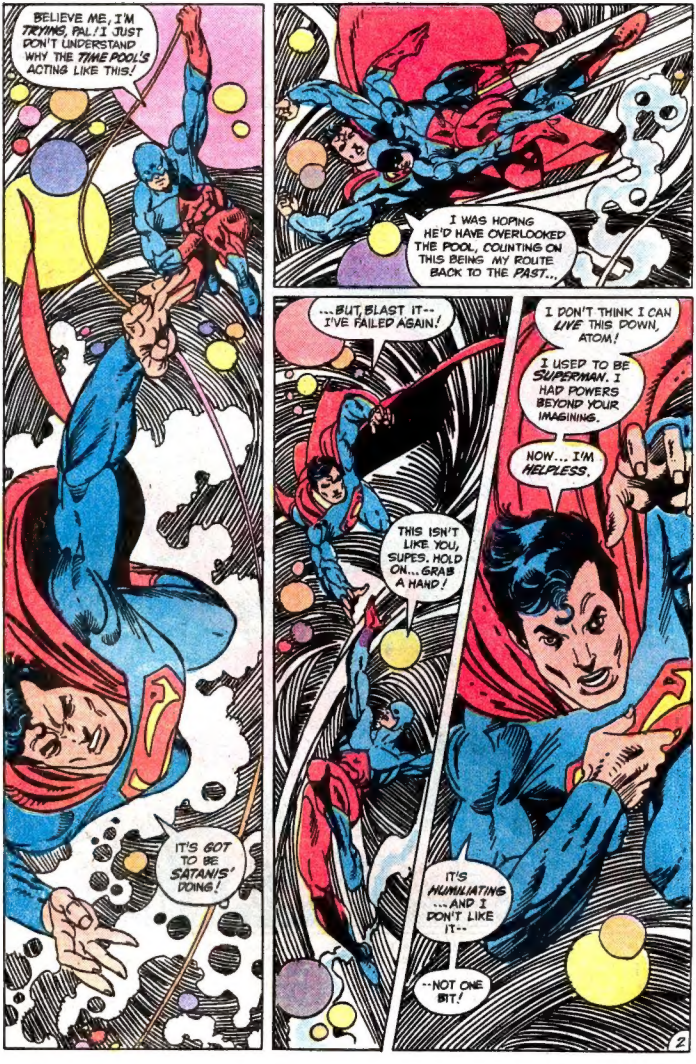
BELIEVE ME, I'M TRYING, PAL! I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THE TIME POOL'S ACTING LIKE THIS!
IT'S GOT TO BE SATANIS' DOING!
I WAS HOPING HE'D HAVE OVERLOOKED THE POOL, COUNTING ON THIS BEING MY ROUTE BACK TO THE PAST...
...BUT, BLAST IT-- I'VE FAILED AGAIN!
THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU, SUPES. HOLD ON... GRAB A HAND!
I DON'T THINK I CAN LIVE THIS DOWN, ATOM!
I USED TO BE SUPERMAN. I HAD POWERS BEYOND YOUR IMAGINING.
NOW... I'M HELPLESS.
IT'S HUMILIATING ...AND I DON'T LIKE IT--
--NOT ONE BIT!

YOU CERTAIN THAT ROPE'S SECURE?
TRUST ME! I'VE GONE THROUGH PROFESSOR HYATT'S TIME POOL DOZENS OF TIMES...
...AND THIS NYLON-REINFORCED ROPE'S ALWAYS HELD FIRM.
WHAT DID I TELL YOU? BACK HOME! THERE'S NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT, EH?
YOU SAID IT, ATOM. THE PAIN WAS EXCRUCIATING!
YOU HAVE ANY OTHER IDEAS ON HOW TO GET BACK IN TIME?
I'M DOWN TO MY LAST ONE...
TWO FIGURES ENLARGE THEMSELVES. THE ATOM, USING HIS BELT-BUCKLE CONTROLS, WHILE A PRE-SET REVERSAL OF BRAINIAC'S SHRINKING RAY BRINGS THE MAN OF STEEL BACK TO NORMAL SIZE...
I HATE TO BE PESSIMISTIC, ATOM, BUT I'M BEGINNING TO THINK SATANIS HAS SUCCEEDED IN DOING WHAT HUNDREDS OF OTHER CRIMINALS FAILED AT:
THE END OF SUPERMAN!
THANKS FOR YOUR HELP, RAY. SORRY TO HAVE BOTHERED YOU.
IT HURTS SEEING SUPERMAN DESPAIR SO. EVEN BEFORE I BECAME THE ATOM, I ADMIRED HIM.
HE'S THE FIRST AND GREATEST SUPER-HERO OF ALL!
AND IF SUPERMAN CAN BE DEFEATED, WHAT DOES THAT BODE FOR THE REST OF US?
SPLIT INTO TWO DURING A STRUGGLE BETWEEN TWO SORCERERS --LORD SATANIS AND HIS WIFE, SYRENE...
EACH SUPERMAN ONLY HALF AS POWERFUL AS BEFORE...
NO WONDER HE'S SO DESPONDENT!
3

MEANWHILE, RUSHING ACROSS COUNTRY...
I KNOW THE CHANCES ARE AGAINST IT, BUT I'VE GOT TO BELIEVE SATANIS HASN'T SABOTAGED THIS TIME-TRAVEL DEVICE AS WELL.
SOMEONE HAS TO BE ABLE TO STOP HIM AND HIS WIFE BEFORE THEY CAN TAKE SORCEROUS CONTROL OVER EARTH...
...EVEN THOUGH IT'S BECOMING PAINFULLY CLEAR I MAY NOT BE THE ONE WHO CAN DO IT.
FLASH, ARE YOU READY?
OF COURSE! I GOT THE COSMIC TREADMILL OUT OF MOTHBALLS AS SOON AS YOU CONTACTED ME!
I JUST HOPE IT WORKS FOR YOU!
YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE!
REMEMBER, I'LL DO THE RUNNING. I BUILD UP SPEED AND AS LONG AS WE STAY ON THE TREADMILL, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO MOVE BACKWARD IN TIME. READY?
AS I'LL EVER BE!
THEN LET'S GO FOR IT!
THIS HURTS... THE PRESSURE'S GETTING IMPOSSIBLY STRONG.
I KEEP FORGETTING. YOU AREN'T INVULNERABLE ANY MORE.
NO. THAT BELONGS TO MY COUNTERPART. EH -- WHAT'S THAT SMOKE?
SOMETHING'S WRONG! IT'S A SUPER-SPEED FLASHBACK!
THE TREADMILL'S BURNING UP!
4

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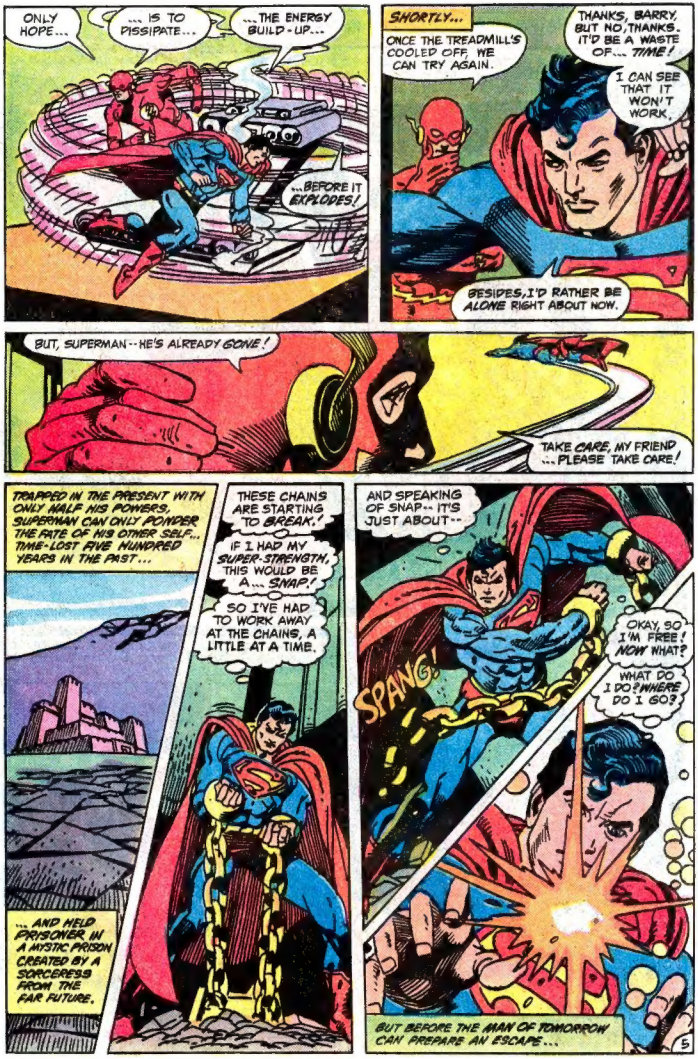
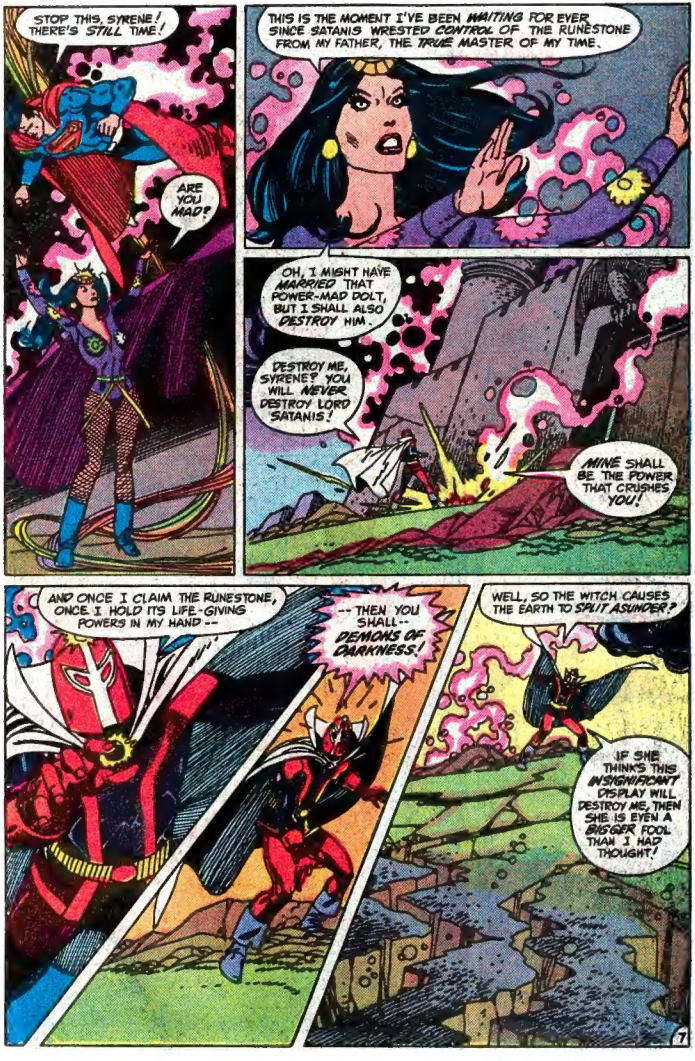
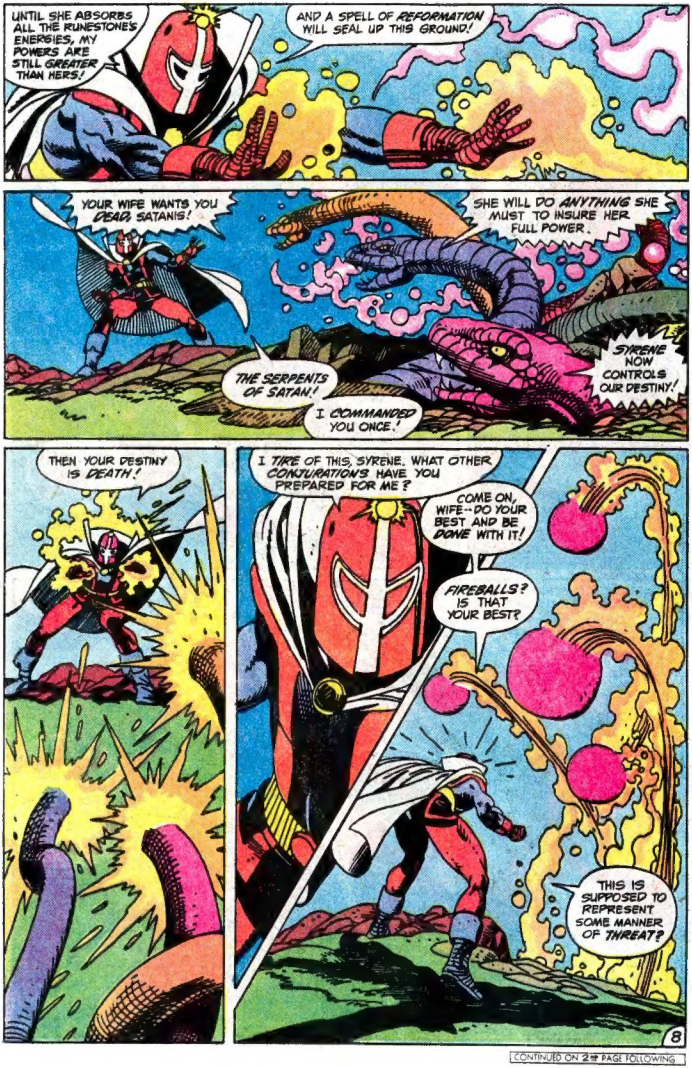

ONLY HOPE...
... IS TO DISSIPATE...
...THE ENERGY BUILD-UP...
...BEFORE IT EXPLODES!
SHORTLY...
ONCE THE TREADMILL'S COOLED OFF, WE CAN TRY AGAIN.
THANKS, BARRY, BUT NO, THANKS. IT'D BE A WASTE OF... TIME!
I CAN SEE THAT IT WON'T WORK.
BESIDES, I'D RATHER BE ALONE RIGHT ABOUT NOW.
BUT, SUPERMAN--HE'S ALREADY GONE!
TAKE CARE, MY FRIEND ...PLEASE TAKE CARE!
TRAPPED IN THE PRESENT WITH ONLY HALF HIS POWERS, SUPERMAN CAN ONLY PONDER THE FATE OF HIS OTHER SELF... TIME-LOST FIVE HUNDRED YEARS IN THE PAST...
... AND HELD PRISONER IN A MYSTIC PRISON CREATED BY A SORCERESS FROM THE FAR FUTURE.
THESE CHAINS ARE STARTING TO BREAK!
IF I HAD MY SUPER-STRENGTH, THIS WOULD BE A... SNAP!
SO I'VE HAD TO WORK AWAY AT THE CHAINS, A LITTLE AT A TIME.
AND SPEAKING OF SNAP-- IT'S JUST ABOUT--
SPANG!
OKAY, SO I'M FREE! NOW WHAT?
WHAT DO I DO? WHERE DO I GO?
BUT BEFORE THE MAN OF TOMORROW CAN PREPARE AN ESCAPE...
5

...HE FINDS HIMSELF TRANSPORTED TO THE HIGHEST POINT IN SYRENE'S CASTLE.
WHAT?
IT IS TIME, SUPERMAN. AS I TOLD YOU BEFORE, YOU ARE NEEDED TO MAKE ME THE GREATEST SORCERESS WHO HAS EVER LIVED!
NOW ALL THE FORCES ARE IN ORDER. I POSSESS MERLIN'S MYSTIC RUNESTONE. ITS POWERS SHALL BE FOCUSED INTO YOUR INVULNERABLE BODY.
...WHICH SHALL ACT AS A FILTER, DESTROYING YOU WHILE ALLOWING THE PURIFIED MYSTIC ENERGIES TO REACH ME!
AND OVER YOUR BURNED-OUT CORPSE I SHALL RISE TO CLAIM THIS EARTH, IN ALL ITS TIMES--
--AS MINE!
SYRENE SPEAKS AND STORM CLOUDS GATHER, RUMBLING AS IF IN PROTEST. LIGHTNING BLASTS OUTWARD IN ALL DIRECTIONS.
POWER BEGINS TO FLOW, RISING LIKE GIANT WAVES, AND SYRENE FEELS ITS GENTLE CARESS.


STOP THIS, SYRENE! THERE'S STILL TIME!
ARE YOU MAD?
THIS IS THE MOMENT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR EVER SINCE SATANIS WRESTED CONTROL OF THE RUNESTONE FROM MY FATHER, THE TRUE MASTER OF MY TIME.
OH, I MIGHT HAVE MARRIED THAT POWER-MAD DOLT, BUT I SHALL ALSO DESTROY HIM.
DESTROY ME, SYRENE? YOU WILL NEVER DESTROY LORD SATANIS!
MINE SHALL BE THE POWER THAT CRUSHES YOU!
AND ONCE I CLAIM THE RUNESTONE, ONCE I HOLD ITS LIFE-GIVING POWERS IN MY HAND --
-- THEN YOU SHALL-- DEMONS OF DARKNESS!
WELL, SO THE WITCH CAUSES THE EARTH TO SPLIT ASUNDER?
IF SHE THINKS THIS INSIGNIFICANT DISPLAY WILL DESTROY ME, THEN SHE IS EVEN A BIGGER FOOL THAN I HAD THOUGHT!


UNTIL SHE ABSORBS ALL THE RUNESTONE'S ENERGIES, MY POWERS ARE STILL GREATER THAN HERS!
AND A SPELL OF REFORMATION WILL SEAL UP THIS GROUND!
YOUR WIFE WANTS YOU DEAD, SATANIS!
SHE WILL DO ANYTHING SHE MUST TO INSURE HER FULL POWER.
SYRENE NOW CONTROLS OUR DESTINY!
THE SERPENTS OF SATAN!
I COMMANDED YOU ONCE!
THEN YOUR DESTINY IS DEATH!
I TIRE OF THIS, SYRENE. WHAT OTHER CONJURATIONS HAVE YOU PREPARED FOR ME?
COME ON, WIFE--DO YOUR BEST AND BE DONE WITH IT!
FIREBALLS? IS THAT YOUR BEST?
THIS IS SUPPOSED TO REPRESENT SOME MANNER OF THREAT?

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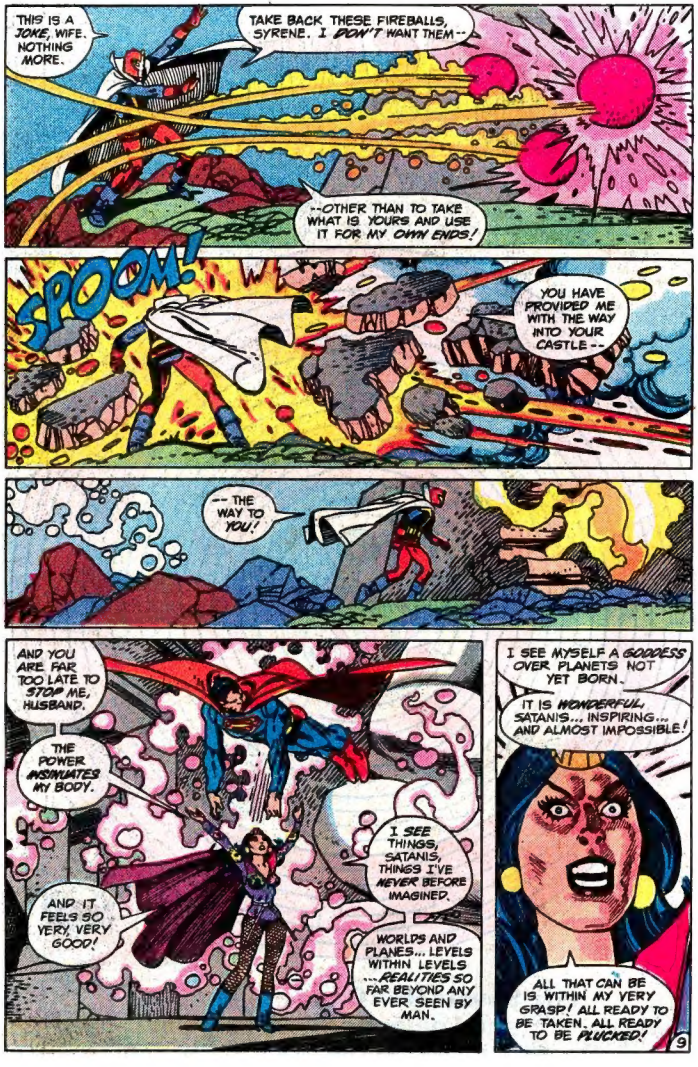

THIS IS A JOKE, WIFE. NOTHING MORE.
TAKE BACK THESE FIREBALLS, SYRENE. I DON'T WANT THEM--
--OTHER THAN TO TAKE WHAT IS YOURS AND USE IT FOR MY OWN ENDS!
SPOOM!
YOU HAVE PROVIDED ME WITH THE WAY INTO YOUR CASTLE--
-- THE WAY TO YOU!
AND YOU ARE FAR TOO LATE TO STOP ME, HUSBAND.
THE POWER INSINUATES MY BODY.
AND IT FEELS SO VERY, VERY GOOD!
I SEE THINGS, SATANIS, THINGS I'VE NEVER BEFORE IMAGINED.
WORLDS AND PLANES... LEVELS WITHIN LEVELS ...REALITIES SO FAR BEYOND ANY EVER SEEN BY MAN.
I SEE MYSELF A GODDESS OVER PLANETS NOT YET BORN.
IT IS WONDERFUL, SATANIS... INSPIRING... AND ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE!
ALL THAT CAN BE IS WITHIN MY VERY GRASP! ALL READY TO BE TAKEN. ALL READY TO BE PLUCKED!

WHILE IN THE 20TH CENTURY...
IT'S NO USE. WHY TRY KIDDING MYSELF?
SATANIS HAS SHUT OFF MY EVERY AVENUE INTO THE PAST. SO I'M STUCK HERE...
... WITH ONLY SOME OF MY POWERS. I'LL JUST HAVE TO MAKE DO.

BLAST. IT'S SO FRUSTRATING. I HATE THIS IMPOTENT FEELING THAT THERE'S NOTHING ON EARTH I CAN DO.

MEANWHILE, IN THE OFFICES OF THE DAILY PLANET...
....YOU'RE WRONG! WE'RE NOT WRITING OFF SUPERMAN BECAUSE HE'S LOST HALF HIS POWERS.
THEN WHY DO THIS STORY ON THOSE LOST HEROES? WHY DO I GET THIS FEELING THAT WE'RE SUBCONSCIOUSLY ADDING SUPERMAN TO THE LIST OF HEROES OF THE PAST?

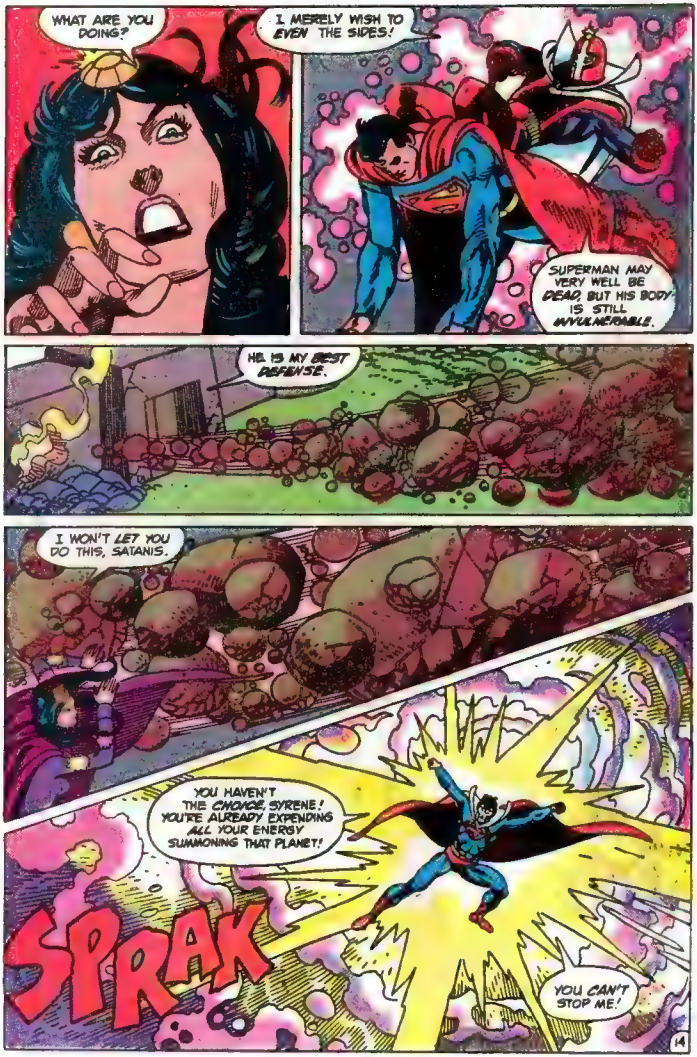
PEOPLE LOVED YOUR STORY ON CAYE CARSON COMING OUT OF RETIREMENT.
THEY WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THEIR OTHER FAVORITES.
BESIDES, WITH SUPERMAN'S PROBLEM NOW PUBLIC, THE TIME IS RIPE FOR THIS KIND OF STORY.

REMEMBER, WE ARE IN BUSINESS TO MAKE MONEY-- CLARK?
LOIS... PERRY...
I FEEL AWF--ULLLL-ANGHAH!
GOOD GOD, CLARK, YOU LOOK AWFUL!
THUMP!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH KENT?
HOW SHOULD I KNOW, BERNIE? I'M NOT THE--
DOCTOR PRUSHA? JUDY? PLEASE, WE NEED YOU UP IN EDITORIAL -- FAST!
I JUST HEARD. HOW'S CLARK?
DOCTOR, HE JUST KEELED OVER WITH NO EXPLANATION.
CALL JASON, MY ASSISTANT. TELL HIM TO GET US AN AMBULANCE.
PULSE IS VERY WEAK. I DON'T LIKE THIS.
DO SOMETHING, DOCTOR! YOU HAVE TO!
CLARK WILL BE ALL RIGHT, LOIS. OUR LITTLE GROUP ALWAYS SEEMS TO RUN INTO TROUBLE...
...BUT WE ALWAYS SEEM TO PULL THROUGH.
BUT THIS TIME NOT EVEN SUPERMAN CAN HELP US.
I'M SCARED, JIMMY. VERY SCARED.
I'M SORRY. HE'S DEAD.
CLARK KENT IS DEAD!
NO!

WHILE FIVE HUNDRED YEARS BEFORE...
IT IS OVER! THE POWER FILTERING THROUGH SUPERMAN'S BODY HAS KILLED HIM WHILE MAKING ME THE GREATEST SORCERER WHO HAS EVER LIVED.
AND NOW, MY DEAR HUSBAND, TO DEAL WITH YOU!
MY FATHER, AMBRA, POSSESSED THE FABLED RUNESTONE CREATED BY MERLIN, BUT YOU KILLED HIM TO TAKE THE STONE AS YOURS.
BUT BEFORE YOU COULD CLAIM IT AND BEFORE HE DIED, HE SENT THE GEM HURTLING INTO THE PAST.
WELL, NOW I HAVE RECLAIMED MY FAMILY HERITAGE. THE STONE AND ITS POWERS ARE MINE!
AND WITH IT I SHALL KILL THE MAN WHO SLEW MY FATHER!
NOT WITH FLAME YOU WON'T!
WITH A CASUAL SPELL, I CAN SEND IT STREAMING BACK TO YOU!
BUT, MY DEAR, I WAS MERELY TESTING YOU... PLAYING WITH YOU... TEASING YOU BEFORE I DISPENSE WITH YOU ALTOGETHER!
POWER IS NOTHING, SYRENE, WITHOUT THE PROPER INTELLIGENCE TO WIELD IT!
12

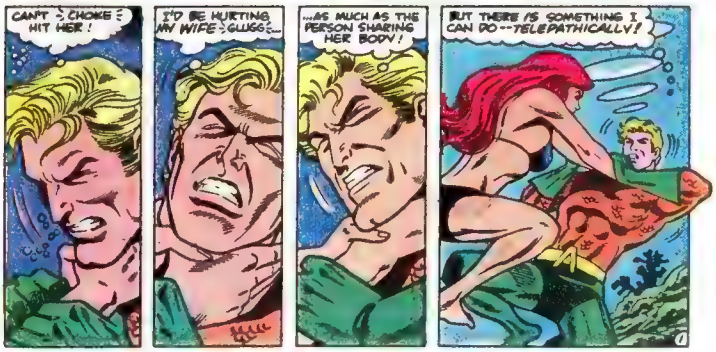
YOU HAVE CAUSED ME GREAT PAIN AND I WISH TO PAY YOU BACK.
BUT I SEE YOU DISBELIEVE ME. WELL, THEN LET ME DEMONSTRATE THE CONTROL I HAVE OVER ALL MY POWERS!
BEHOLD! I SIMPLY REACH STARWARD AND POINT TO THAT INHABITED PLANET BEYOND THE ORBIT OF PLUTO!
WHERE THERE HAS BEEN A TENTH WORLD IN THIS SOLAR SYSTEM, NOW THERE ARE ONLY NINE!
WITH SUCH SIMPLICITY ARE LIFE AND DEATH MINE TO CONTROL!
WITH BUT ANOTHER THOUGHT, I CAN LURE EARTHWARD HALF THAT SHATTERED PLANET!
DO YOU SEE IT, HUSBAND? THOSE FRAGMENTS WILL CRUSH YOUR VERY LIFE!
WITH MERLIN'S RUNESTONE THERE IS NOTHING I CANNOT DO!
I DON'T INTEND TO DIE!
DO YOU KNOW THE UTTER JOY OF TOTAL POWER? WHY, I COULD TURN YOU INTO PROTOPLASMIC SLIME IF I SO WISHED!
BUT I BELIEVE WATCHING YOU PAINFULLY DIE WILL BE FAR MORE SATISFYING!
13

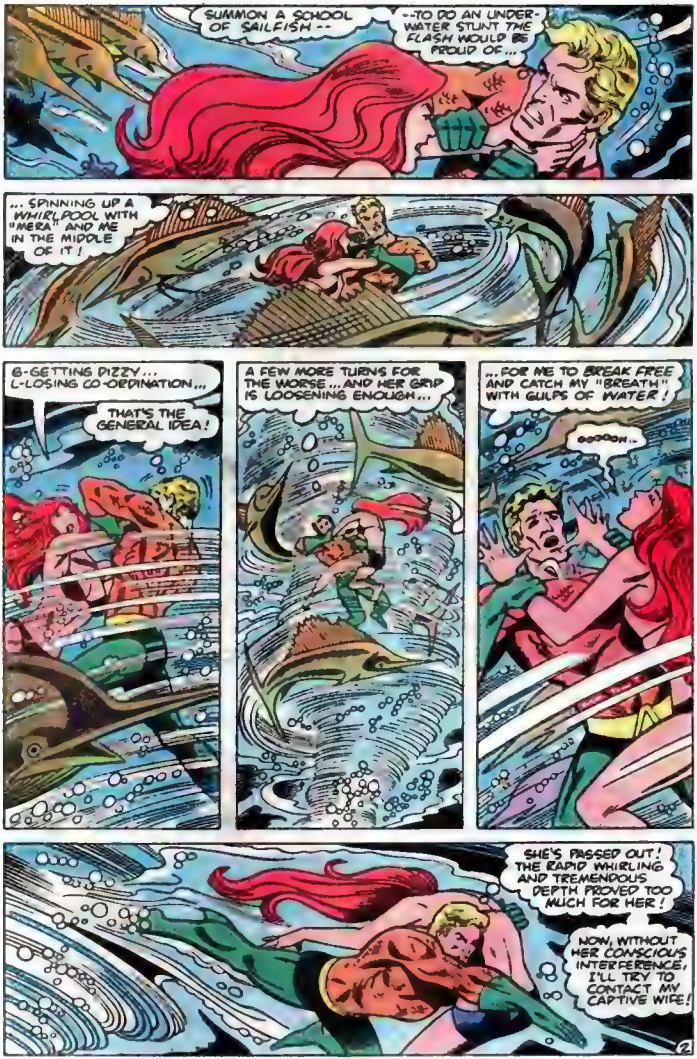

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I MERELY WISH TO EVEN THE SIDES!
SUPERMAN MAY VERY WELL BE DEAD BUT HIS BODY IS STILL INVULNERABLE.
HE IS MY BEST DEFENSE.
I WON'T LET YOU DO THIS, SATANIS.
YOU HAVEN'T THE CHOICE, SYRENE! YOU'RE ALREADY EXPENDING ALL YOUR ENERGY SUMMONING THAT PLANET!
SPRAK
YOU CAN'T STOP ME!

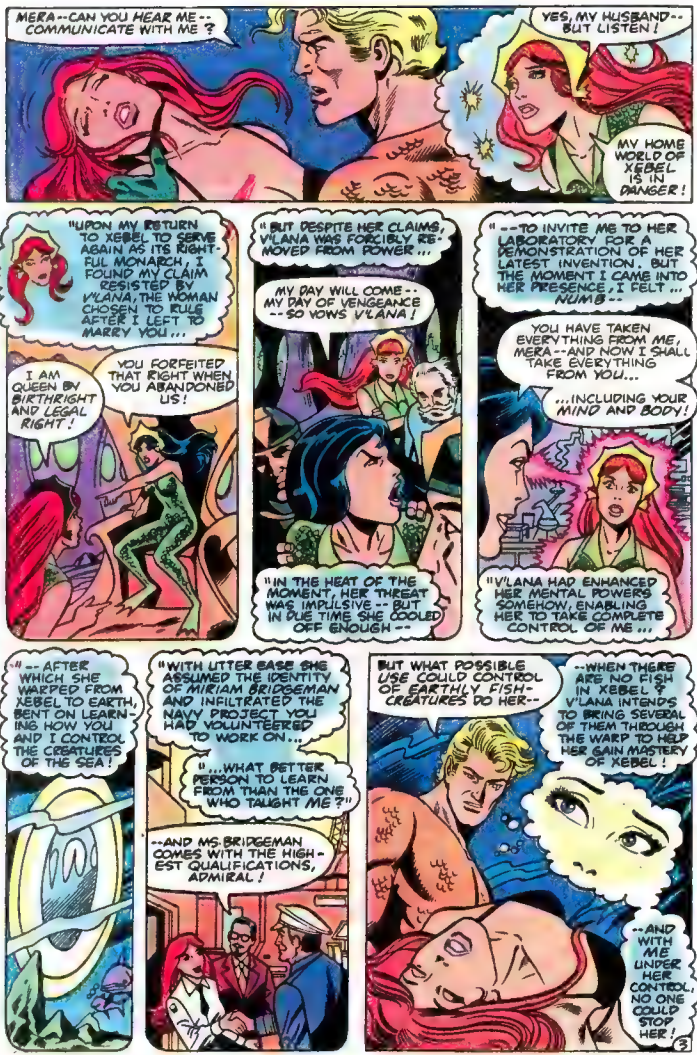
I STILL LIVE, SYRENE!
BUT NOW I AM EVEN MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU!
MY SORCEROUS POWERS HAVE NOT DIMINISHED, BUT NOW I POSSESS ALL OF SUPERMAN'S POWERS AS WELL!
I CANNOT BE STOPPED, MY WIFE!
NOW, COME--LET THIS BATTLE BEGIN IN EARNEST.
FOR WHEN WE ARE DONE, ONLY ONE OF US SHALL EMERGE ALIVE!

WHILE, IN THE PRESENT...
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S DEAD. IT'S NOT FAIR.
I'VE CARED FOR HIM ALL MY LIFE. HE CAN'T BE GONE.
I DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IT, EITHER, LANA, BUT IT'S TRUE.
LORD, I'LL MISS HIM.
COME ON, THERE'S NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO HERE.
HE'D WANT US TO CARRY ON.
WHILE...
BRAINSCAN NEGATIVE. RESPIRATION ZERO. THERE'S NO DOUBT. OFFICIAL TIME OF DEATH IS 5:37 PM.
THEY WANT AN AUTOPSY RIGHT AWAY TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF HIS DEATH.
A SCALPEL IS PLACED TO CLARK KENT'S UNMOVING CHEST, AND, WITH A STEADY HAND, THE FIRST CUT IS MADE.
SEEMINGLY, THIS IS... THE END.
BUT OBVIOUSLY, THIS IS--- CONTINUED NEXT ISSUE!
16

THE SON OF A LIGHTHOUSE-KEEPER AND A WOMAN EXILED FROM SUNKEN ATLANTIS, ARTHUR CURRY GREW TO MANHOOD WITH THE POWER TO COMMAND ALL FORMS OF SEA-LIFE! TODAY HE IS THE KING OF THE SEVEN SEAS, THE MARINE MARVEL KNOWN AS...
AQUAMAN
YES, AQUAMAN, THIS IS MERA'S BODY! WE BOTH SHARE IT, SHE AND I!
BUT I AM THE DOMINANT "TENANT"... AND YOUR MURDERER!
SHE'S STRANGLING ME ;URGE; CAN'T FIGHT BACK!
THE JOY OF DISCOVERING HIS WIFE MERA BACK ON EARTH IS TRANSFORMED INTO HORROR AS AQUAMAN FINDS HIMSELF AT THE MERCY OF A WOMAN WHO SCREAMS... ...
HELP! I'M A PRISONER IN MY OWN BODY!
BOB ROZAKIS -WRITER-
ALEX SAVIUK -PENCILS-
DAN ADKINS -INKS-
PHIL FELIX -LETTERER-
TATJANA WOOD -COLORIST-
J. SCHWARTZ -EDITOR-

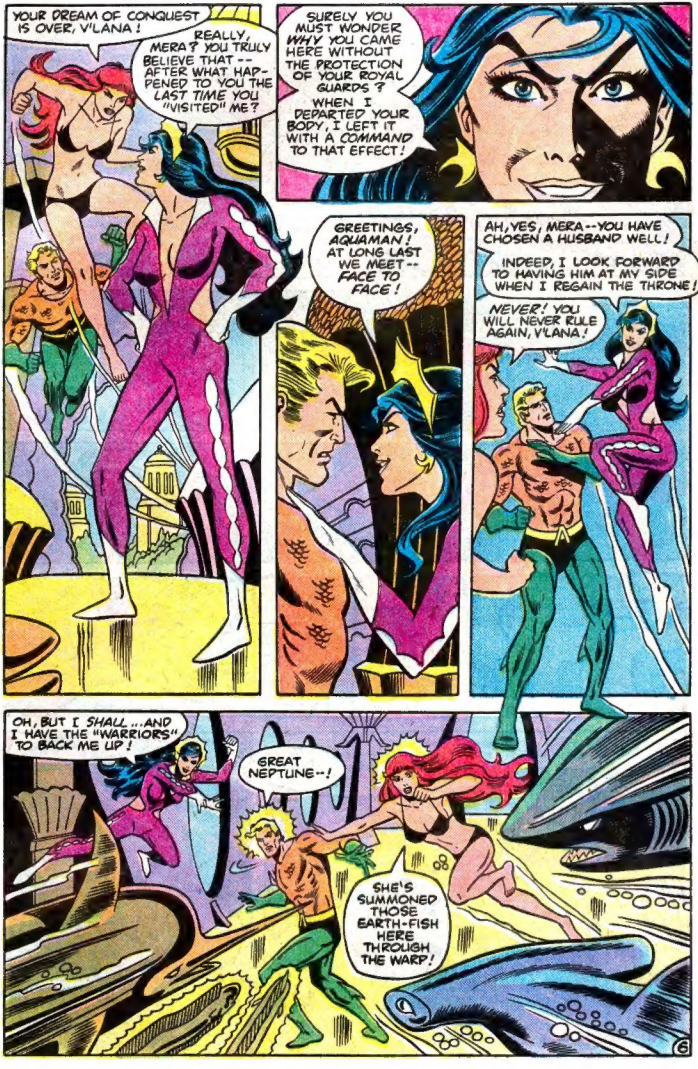

CAN'T ;CHOKE; HIT HER!
I'D BE HURTING MY WIFE ;GLUGG;...
...AS MUCH AS THE PERSON SHARING HER BODY!
BUT THERE IS SOMETHING I CAN DO--TELEPATHICALLY!


SUMMON A SCHOOL OF SAILFISH --
--TO DO AN UNDER-WATER STUNT THE FLASH WOULD BE PROUD OF...
...SPINNING UP A WHIRLPOOL WITH "HERA" AND ME IN THE MIDDLE OF IT!
G-GETTING DIZZY... L-LOSING CO-ORDINATION...
THAT'S THE GENERAL IDEA!
A FEW MORE TURNS FOR THE WORSE...AND HER GRIP IS LOOSENING ENOUGH...
...FOR ME TO BREAK FREE AND CATCH MY "BREATH" WITH GULPS OF WATER!
OOOOOH...
SHE'S PASSED OUT! THE RAPID WHIRLING AND TREMENDOUS DEPTH PROVED TOO MUCH FOR HER!
NOW, WITHOUT HER CONSCIOUS INTERFERENCE, I'LL TRY TO CONTACT MY CAPTIVE WIFE!
2.


MERA--CAN YOU HEAR ME--COMMUNICATE WITH ME ?
YES, MY HUSBAND--BUT LISTEN !
MY HOME WORLD OF XEBEL IS IN DANGER !
"UPON MY RETURN TO XEBEL TO SERVE AGAIN AS ITS RIGHTFUL MONARCH, I FOUND MY CLAIM RESISTED BY V'LANA, THE WOMAN CHOSEN TO RULE AFTER I LEFT TO MARRY YOU...
I AM QUEEN BY BIRTHRIGHT AND LEGAL RIGHT !
YOU FORFEITED THAT RIGHT WHEN YOU ABANDONED US !
"BUT DESPITE HER CLAIMS, V'LANA WAS FORCIBLY REMOVED FROM POWER...
MY DAY WILL COME--MY DAY OF VENGEANCE --SO VOWS V'LANA !
"IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT, HER THREAT WAS IMPULSIVE--BUT IN DUE TIME SHE COOLED OFF ENOUGH--
"--TO INVITE ME TO HER LABORATORY FOR A DEMONSTRATION OF HER LATEST INVENTION. BUT THE MOMENT I CAME INTO HER PRESENCE, I FELT ... NUMB--
YOU HAVE TAKEN EVERYTHING FROM ME, MERA--AND NOW I SHALL TAKE EVERYTHING FROM YOU...
...INCLUDING YOUR MIND AND BODY!
"V'LANA HAD ENHANCED HER MENTAL POWERS SOMEHOW, ENABLING HER TO TAKE COMPLETE CONTROL OF ME...
"--AFTER WHICH SHE WARPED FROM XEBEL TO EARTH, BENT ON LEARNING HOW YOU AND I CONTROL THE CREATURES OF THE SEA!
"WITH UTTER EASE SHE ASSUMED THE IDENTITY OF MIRIAM BRIDGEMAN AND INFILTRATED THE NAVY PROJECT YOU HAD VOLUNTEERED TO WORK ON...
"...WHAT BETTER PERSON TO LEARN FROM THAN THE ONE WHO TAUGHT ME?"
--AND MS. BRIDGEMAN COMES WITH THE HIGHEST QUALIFICATIONS, ADMIRAL !
BUT WHAT POSSIBLE USE COULD CONTROL OF EARTHLY FISH-CREATURES DO HER--
--WHEN THERE ARE NO FISH IN XEBEL ? V'LANA INTENDS TO BRING SEVERAL OF THEM THROUGH THE WARP TO HELP HER GAIN MASTERY OF XEBEL !
--AND WITH ME UNDER HER CONTROL, NO ONE COULD STOP HER !
3

OBVIOUSLY, THE ONLY PLACE TO WIN THIS BATTLE IS ON V'LANA'S HOME-FIELD!
GOT TO GET THERE BEFORE SHE REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS AND CONTROL OF MERA'S BODY!
THERE'S THE WARP--BUT IT'S FAR LARGER THAN IT USED TO BE!
V'LANA'S WORK! SHE ENLARGED IT TO ALLOW BIGGER FISH TO SWIM THROUGH IT!
HURRY, MY HUSBAND! I CAN FEEL HER MIND AWAKENING!
FASTER... FASTER..
HANG ON, MERA!
UHHH...
V'LANA'S COMING AROUND... I'LL BE CONFRONTING MY NEMESIS AGAIN!
SHE IS GONE!
WHO IS...?
V'LANA... SHE'S NO LONGER CONTROLLING MY BODY!
4

I'M FREE--WHAT A WONDERFUL FEELING TO BE MYSELF AGAIN!
I FELT AS IF I WERE LOCKED IN A TINY ROOM...
...INCAPABLE OF ANY MOVEMENT--!
THERE'S NO TIME TO WASTE, DARLING...
LEAD ME TO VLANA!
IF SHE'S NOT INSIDE YOUR BODY ANY MORE, SHE MUST HAVE RETURNED TO HER OWN!
YES, CROSSING THE WARP JARRED HER MIND OUT OF MY BODY--
--AND I KNOW JUST WHERE IT HOMED IN ON!
DOES VLANA HAVE ANY GUARDS POSTED?
NO ONE WOULD DARE BE LOYAL TO HER -- SUCH TREASON IS PUNISHABLE!
THAT IS WHY SHE WANTED THOSE "WARRIOR" FISH FROM EARTH!
5


YOUR DREAM OF CONQUEST IS OVER, V'LANA!
REALLY, MERA? YOU TRULY BELIEVE THAT -- AFTER WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU THE LAST TIME YOU "VISITED" ME?
SURELY YOU MUST WONDER WHY YOU CAME HERE WITHOUT THE PROTECTION OF YOUR ROYAL GUARDS? WHEN I DEPARTED YOUR BODY, I LEFT IT WITH A COMMAND TO THAT EFFECT!
GREETINGS, AQUAMAN! AT LONG LAST WE MEET -- FACE TO FACE!
AH, YES, MERA -- YOU HAVE CHOSEN A HUSBAND WELL!
INDEED, I LOOK FORWARD TO HAVING HIM AT MY SIDE WHEN I REGAIN THE THRONE!
NEVER! YOU WILL NEVER RULE AGAIN, V'LANA!
OH, BUT I SHALL ... AND I HAVE THE "WARRIORS" TO BACK ME UP!
GREAT NEPTUNE--!
SHE'S SUMMONED THOSE EARTH-FISH HERE THROUGH THE WARP!
6

IT'S ALL FOR NAUGHT, VI'LANA!
YOU WON'T GET TO "FIRST BASE"-- AS WE SAY ON MY WORLD--
--BECAUSE I'M COMMANDING THOSE FISH TO RETURN TO EARTH!
NOT IF I NULLIFY YOUR TELEPATHIC COMMAND, AQUAMAN!
SHWAM
NOW, MY DEAR MERA, CHOOSE YOUR METHOD OF EXECUTION--
--TO BE CRUSHED BY AN OCTOPUS... DEVOURED BY A SHARK...
...ELECTROCUTED BY AN EEL... STABBED BY A SWORDFISH--?
THE CHOICE IS YOURS!
HA HA HA HA HA
BUT YOU HAVE NO CHOICE, DEAR READER! YOU MUST BE WITH US FOR NEXT ISSUE'S
"WATER-WAR ONE!"
BRING YOUR SCUBA GEAR!

DC COMICS, INC., 666 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10103

Dear Actioneers:

"It still amazes me how Marv Wolfman can write a story so saturated in action and battle scenes without neglecting the central characters' thoughts and emotions! In what amounts to a metaphor for the old science-versus-magic struggle, *Superman* and Lord Satanis fight it out in *ACTION* #534—although neither ever lays a hand on the other—with superpowers and sorcery, respectively. Marv realizes we've seen this sort of thing several times before, so he makes a wee change in the program: *Superman's* reactions, whether they're spoken or thought, analytical or emotional, valid or erroneous, are highlighted, giving us a deeper-than-normal look into what makes *Superman* do what he does so well.

Example: In "Two For the Death of One", *Superman* is zapped by Satanis out of Metropolis and "Backward through the time stream". Almost instantly he recognizes his predicament...and even has a good guess as to who's responsible! When he emerges into the feudal setting of the Dark Ages, he immediately analyzes the natives' language to determine his whereabouts and whenabouts. He finds he can't have a logical discussion with them ("I'd have better luck dealing with their picks than with them!"), so he literally blows them away. Enter Lord Satanis—no one can make a better entrance than Satanis—and *Superman's* worst fears are confirmed.

From here on it's non-stop action, but even though Satanis could kill *Superman* at any time during their battle, the Man of Steel takes it lightly, almost blithely (possibly to put his fears on hold?). When a Satanis-styled woodsman fells *Superman* with one whack of an axe, he mocks himself: "Why wasn't I paying attention?" He scorches an attacking tree with heat vision while alluding to Smokey the Bear, then tops it off by chiding himself for having to resort to heat vision again to attempt to defeat the dragon. These might have been pretty pedestrian stunts, but Marv's dialogue made it well worthwhile. And who could ignore that cliffhanger? Two *Supermen*, plus the *Omega Men* next issue? I might have to camp out near my mailbox during June.

If it's true what Bob Rozakis told me about *Air Wave's* coming eviction from these pages, I doth protest. Bob has a strong handle on this character, as witness this issue's "Air Wave's Close Encounter". *Air Wave's* idle daydreaming about a career in the *Justice League* (*Hawkman:* "You're the greatest hero of us all!!") was amusing, as were his attempts to make out with Karen. Yet, in no time, the tale escalated from humor to high-tech, high-class science fiction with the forboding alien invasion. And *this* is a *cancelled* back-up?

MARK LAGASSE,
R.D. #1, Box 116,
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

Air Wave's departure from these pages is only the tip of the iceberg, Mark, as we'll explain shortly. But first, another AW-supporter wants to have a say!—BR

Dear DC,

How could you do this?! Getting rid of *Air Wave* is a big mistake. I have been a loyal fan for the past couple of years and started reading *ACTION COMICS* with #490. You were starting to put a lot of characterization into Hal (*Air Wave*) Jordan, Karen, and Hal's living with his cousin's family. *Air Wave's* adventures were getting better and better. I thought it quite interesting how Larry Jordan's son followed in his footsteps, even though you haven't explained how Hal got the uniform (after it disappeared in "Whatever Happened to the Original Air Wave?" in *DC COMICS PRESENTS* #40).

I think it is a great misjustice to write *Air Wave* off and I think you should find a spot for him somewhere in your magazines. All you readers who care about *Air Wave* should write in and tell DC what you think. Please bring him back.

JIM SCUDDER,
Bridgetown Road,
Cincinnati, OH 45211

Among those people who are Air Wave supporters are editor Julie Schwartz and writer BR. Jim, which is why the rider of the air waves will be making an appearance in DC COMICS PRESENTS as soon as we can find time to schedule it. That's where all you Air Wave fans can really show your support—by buying that issue!

And, by the way, the costume didn't vanish forever in DCCP #40. Remember that Hal's mother wore it to track down Larry Jordan's killer. When Hal got older, his mother gave it to him (in a scene we hope to **show** *you in the aforementioned DC COMICS PRESENTS team-up AW will have with Superman!)—BR*

* * *

GONE WITH THE WINGS DEPARTMENT: As we hinted earlier in the column, the departure from these pages by *Air Wave* is only the tip of the iceberg. The decision has been made to present full-length *Superman* stories in this magazine, beginning after the current *Aquaman* series concludes next issue. Fans of the Sea King (and *Air Wave* and *The Atom*), as well as those of you who have been looking forward to our much-promised *Hawkman* series, will have to accept our apologies. But keep in mind that this is not an irreversible decision. If enough of you demand it, our rotating back-up stars can return. Write and let us know what you want!

* * *

Dear Julie and Bob,

I just couldn't resist the challenge to guess what will happen after the end of "Two For the Death of One" Both *Superman* will outwit and elude Satanis and Syrene somehow, return to the present, and help the *Teen Titans* rescue Koriand'r from the clutches of her evil sister in *NEW TEEN TITANS*. So there! And Marv Wolfman dared suggest that nobody could guess what would happen next! Oh, really? Heh! What do I get? Huh? What do I win?

KEVIN FISCHER,
1711 Black Oak Lane,
Silver Spring, MD 20910

How about the chance to write again and say, "Hey, Marv really faked me out!"?—BR

* * *

KANE...AND QUITE ABLE, THANK YOU DEPARTMENT: For those of you who might be wondering about the change in artists hereabouts, we are happy to welcome Gil Kane to the pages of *ACTION* for at least the next few issues (and hopefully a lot longer). Gil is no stranger to the pages of DC, having worked on many different features over the years (including the early days of the Earth-One *Green Lantern* and *The Atom*). Gil's no stranger to the Man of Steel, either, having worked on a number of covers for these books as well as some special tales written especially for our overseas markets. And before you write in and ask, no, Gil is not related to *Batman*-creator Bob Kane!

* * *

CONTINUED ON 35P PAGE FOLLOWING.

Dear Editor:

I just knew that the return of Lord Satanis would make for a special story and "Two for the Death of One" was it! I think that Marv must really enjoy using his creation against *Superman* as evidenced by his taunts of the Man of Steel. I was also amazed at *Superman's* bravura since he knows that he is no match for magic and that his first encounter nearly killed him. Yet here is *Superman* fighting against Satanis' magic as if he could whip him, instead of trying to figure out some way to outwit his foe. I mean, I was amused at *Superman's* pleading with Satanis to stop the gem stone's mystic barrage against him. If nothing else, *Superman* should have learned from his first encounter that the stone's energies are all that matter to Satanis and since he has killed once for it, he isn't above killing *Superman* for it now. *Superman's* whole approach to the situation was just as if he were facing the Purple Piledriver instead of his most awesome enemy. If not for the timely appearance of Syrene again, *Superman* would in all likelihood be Super-corpse instead of Super-twins.

So...two *Supermen*, the *Omega Men*, the Mole running rampant in 1982, Satanis and Syrene in the middle ages! I don't know what Marv has planned, but it has to be different!

KENT A PHENIS,
1321 North Meridian Street,
Apt. 913,
Indianapolis, IN 46202

By now you've seen just how *different, Kent. And this is only the beginning! Recently, editor Julie met with Marv and Cary Bates, and DC publisher Jenette Kahn to discuss more new and exciting events in the life of the Man of Steel. You'll be seeing these dramatic changes in upcoming issues of ACTION and SUPERMAN...and we guarantee you'll be thrilled by them!—Bob Rozakis*

ON SALE OCTOBER 28TH

ARION, LORD OF ATLANTIS #3—Paul Kupperberg, writer, Jan Duursema, artist. Duursema has an opportunity to dazzle as the very first of the twelve "Zodiac Crystals" unleashes its awesome powers in a most spectacular fashion. The next question is: where are the rest of these crystals—and what happens when they're gathered together?

CAPTAIN CARROT AND HIS AMAZING ZOO CREW #11—The biggest battle in comic books this week! It's Pig Iron and the Wuz-Wolf in the knock-down, smash-'em-up, drag-out fight of fights! Story idea by Roy Thomas, script by E. Nelson Bridwell, pencils by Stan Goldberg and inks by Al Gordon. RUBBER-DUCK stars in the second feature in a story by Shawl drawn by Rick Hoberg.

ALL-STAR SQUADRON #17—A publicity-seeking district attorney brings Robotman up on charges of being a public menace—with Robotman's destruction the result if the case is lost! "The Trial of Robotman" is by Roy Thomas and Adrian Gonzales

THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SUPERBOY #37—The conclusion of the menace of the psychokinetic man by Paul Kupperberg and Kurt Schaffenberger Also: "You Can't Tell The Heroes Without An H Dial," by E Nelson Bridwell, Bob Rozakis, Howard Bender, and Joe Giella

JONAH HEX #68—The remaining duo of the band responsible for the death of Hex's fiancee comes riding for him. By Michael Fleisher, Dick Ayers and Tony De Zuniga. Cover by Adrian Gonzales and Dick Giordano.

WEIRD WAR TALES #119—The CREATURE COMMANDOS journey to the future to seek a cure for their conditions. Story by Kanigher, art by Carrillo.

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS #287—The World's Finest Duo are at the mercy of a world gone bonkers, courtesy of Dr. Zodiac and Madam Zodiac. ROBIN and THE FLASH guest-star in this story written by Cary Burkett.

DETECTIVE COMICS #522—The Return of The Snowman by Gerry Conway and Irv Novick. Plus: Green Arrow vs. Hi-Tek by Joey Cavalieri and Trevor VonEeden

ON SALE NOVEMBER 4TH

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #211—In "The Devil's Bargain", the JLA traverses the vast regions of space in hot pursuit of the alien Treasurers and the "x-factor" pilfered from the Earth's crust. This is the second chapter from the JLA Casebook, written by Gerry Conway with art by Rich Buckler and Romeo Tanghal. Cover by Buckler and Dick Giordano.

WONDER WOMAN #300—The milestone 300th anniversary spectacular, 72 pages long, written by Roy Thomas and drawn by seven of DC's most superb artists: Gene Colan, Keith Pollard, Keith Giffen, Dick Giordano, Jan Duursema, Rich Buckler and Ross Andru! There are guest stars aplenty, including the TITANS, the JLA, and SANDMAN, all in a story that explores the many alternate paths that the Amazing Amazon's life might have taken. And yes, Steve Trevor's proposal is for real. The wraparound cover is by Ed Hannigan and Dick Giordano.

ADVENTURE COMICS DIGEST #496—The CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN step up their search for the saboteur of their plane in a new story by Bob Rozakis and Alex Toth. Early LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES reprints continue with "Supergirl's Greatest Challenge" and "Superman's Super-Courtship" Other classic reprints include AQUAMAN in the second part of "Underworld Reward", by Skeates and Aparo; a SHAZAM! story featuring CAPTAIN MARVEL JR. and titled "Mystery of the Missing Newsstand"; the Golden Age SANDMAN in "Dreams of Doom" by Simon and Kirby; and THE SPECTRE in "Menace of the Mystic Mastermind". The front cover is by Ross Andru and Dick Giordano and the back cover by Keith Giffen and Frank Giacoia.

BLACKHAWK #255—The greatest aerial commandoes of all time charge into battle again in a new story by Mark Evanier and Dan Spiegle Cover by Dave Cockrum

ARAK, SON OF THUNDER #18—Arak, Valda and Satyricus follow the Viking to the mysterious realm of White Cathay in the lead story by Roy Thomas, Adrian Gonzales and Alfredo Alcala. In the conclusion of the VALDA 3-parter, the Iron Maiden and the wizard Malagigi clash with the witch of Paris. Story by Roy and Danette Thomas, art by Gonzales and Alcala Cover by Gonzales and Alcala.

THE FURY OF FIRESTORM #9—The teenage hot-head concludes his epic combat with the menace named TYPHOON in an adventure written by Gerry Conway, pencilled by Jerome Moore, and inked by Rodin Rodriguez. Cover by Pat Broderick and Dick Giordano.

THE BEST OF DC DIGEST #33—A special all-LEGION edition, reprinting the origins of the most popular Legionnaires and their most powerful enemies. "The Lone Wolf Legionnaire" is the origin of TIMBER WOLF; "One Shot Hero" is the story of WILDFIRE's first LEGION mission; "Dawnstar Rising" is the origin of DAWNSTAR, written by Paul Levitz; and "Brotherly Hate" is a retelling of the origins of LIGHTNING LAD and LIGHT LASS. The villains spotlighted are GRIMBOR, whose story was told in "The Living Key", by Jim Shooter, Mike Grell and Bob Wiacek, and THE INFINITE MAN